

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01645 051852Z

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1645

FOR P - DJEREJIAN AND EUR/NE - PINKNEY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO OVIP (UNDERSEC SISCO -
CNO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNDERSEC SISCO AND CNO HOLLOWAY: TALKING
POINTS ON BILATERAL ISSUES

1. WITH THE SIGNING OF THE IDF RETENTION AGREEMENT THERE
ARE NO LONGER ANY MAJOR OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES BE-
TWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ICELAND. HOWEVER THIS EMBASSY
IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THREE MAJOR EFFORTS:

(A) TO SOLIDIFY RETENTION OF THE IDF BY REMOVING IT
AS AN ISSUE IN LOCAL POLITICS;

(B) TO IMPRESS ON ICELAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS VOTE
AT UNGA, PARTICULARLY THE IMPACT OF AN ABSTENTION
ON CRUCIAL EAST-WEST ISSUES; AND

(C) TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN ICELAND'S FISHERIES
DISPUTE WITH WEST GERMANY.

2. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNDERSEC PLANS TO
TOUCH ON (B) IN HIS GENERAL PRESENTATION ON THE EVOLVING
ALIGNMENTS OF NATIONS AT UNGA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
VOTE OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE UN, ESPECIALLY THE SMALLER
NATIONS. IN THIS REGARD THE UNDERSEC MAY WANT TO COMMEND
ICELAND FOR ITS VOTE ON THE KHMER PRECEDENCE ISSUE (THE
ASIAN FRIENDLY RESOLUTION) AS RECOGNIZING THAT EVEN A VOTE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 01645 051852Z

ON WHAT MAY APPEAR MERELY PROCEDURAL OFTEN HAS SUBSTANTIVE

IMPLICATIONS.

3. THE UNDERSEC WOULD OF COURSE WANT TO AVOID TAKING THE INITIATIVE ON LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS OR THE FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH THE WEST GERMANS (C, ABOVE). HE WILL, HOWEVER, BE DRAWN INTO THE MATTER, AS PREVIOUSLY COMMUNICATED TO YOU.

4. THE UNDERSEC SHOULD, EARLY IN HIS PRESENTATION, MAKE BRIEF MENTION OF THE RECENTLY SIGNED IDF RETENTION AGREEMENT. SOME POINTS HE MIGHT WANT TO MENTION ARE:

(A) USG, LIKE ICELAND, HAS NO INTENTION OF MAINTAINING A MILITARY PRESENCE FOREVER IN ICELAND BUT IS PLEASED THAT ICELAND RECOGNIZES THAT THERE IS STILL NEED FOR THE IDF IN THE CURRENT STATE OF WORLD AFFAIRS (AVOID ANY PRE-DICTION HOW LONG IDF WILL BE NEEDED).

(B) USG RECOGNIZES ICELAND'S DESIRE THAT MILITARY NUMBERS BE KEPT AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE. USG PROMISES TO CONTINUALLY REVIEW SITUATION AND MAKE CHANGES AS IS CONSISTENT WITH MILITARY NECESSITY.

(C) USG IS AWARE OF TIGHT LABOR SITUATION IN ICELAND AND DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY. WE ARE LOOKING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND FOR GUIDANCE ON THE AVAILABILITY AND FLOW OF ICELANDIC LABOR TO FILL JOBS WHICH WILL BE VACATED BY THE 420 MILITARY PERSONNEL. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE REVIEWING THE NUMBER OF ICELANDIC PERSONNEL THAT WILL BE REQUIRED SO AS TO KEEP THE NUMBER AS LOW AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY WELL UNDER 420.

5. I CAN THINK OF NO OTHER BILATERAL MATTERS ON WHICH THE UNDERSEC SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN HIS PRESENTATION.

6. SINCE ARRIVAL WILL BE EARLY SUNDAY EVENING WE CAN DEVOTE THAT EVENING AS WELL AS MONDAY MORNING TO BRIEFINGS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. REAR ADMIRAL RICH AND I WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE UNDERSEC AND WITH ADMIRAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 REYKJA 01645 051852Z

HOLLOWAY THE "LOCAL SCENE," LOCAL PERSONALITIES, ETC.

7. PRIMEMIN PHONED ME YESTERDAY TO TELL ME AGAIN HOW MUCH HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR A NEWER AND FULLER COOPERATION WITH THE WEST.

8. ALL OF US, TOO, ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE GROUP'S

ARRIVAL. WE FEEL SO CERTAIN THE VISIT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL
THAT WE ARE OPTIMISTIC NATURE WILL COOPERATE WITH US ON
THE WEATHER.
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